

Recidivism

COMMUNITY CUSTODY VIOLATOR RETURNS

In 1988, the Community Placement Statute was passed into legislation allowing offenders to be supervised in the community upon release from an institution. Offenders placed on community custody maintain inmate status; therefore, sanctioning of violations is managed by the Department of Corrections, through an administrative hearing process, rather than by the court. CCI Returns are defined as those offenders who violate community custody conditions and are subsequently returned to a DOC facility to serve a sanction.¹ The average time in the facility for CCI returns is about three months.

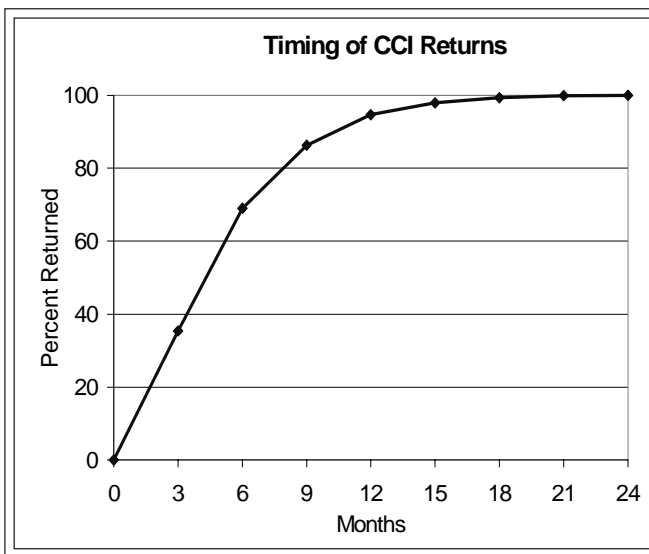
Table 1

	Releases to CCI	# Returned to DOC Facilities	Return Rate
1989	344	39	11
1990	1,028	167	16
1991	1,368	291	21
1992	1,812	394	22
1993	2,183	469	22
1994	2,477	512	19
1995	2,451	464	19
1996	2,730	561	21
1997	3,010	549	17
1998	2,933	494	17
1999	3,023	488	16
Total	23,015	4,389	18

Table 1 presents the number of offenders who have been released to community custody since the legislation passed and the number of offenders who returned to Department facilities within two years. The table also includes a return rate which is the percentage of CCI releases that return within two years. When first implemented, the maximum community custody time was one year. However, a number of crime types may now have community custody greater than one year.²

The findings presented in this briefing paper were obtained through analysis of the 1998 and 1999 releases to community custody. The scope of study was limited to a two-year period following the release date. For the 1998 and 1999 releases to CCI, 982 or almost 17 percent, returned to the Department of Corrections. As demonstrated by Chart 1, approximately half of the 982 came back within the first six months of release. Almost 95 percent of all returns were within the first year.

Chart 1



¹ For a complete definition of recidivism, see Robert Barnoski, "Standards for Improving Research Effectiveness in Adult and Juvenile Justice." Washington State Institute for Public Policy (December 1997).

² RCW 9.94A.120 (A)

Offense

The analysis of CCI violator returns reveals that sex offenders have the lowest return rate of 11 percent and property offenders have the highest return rate of 22 percent. Statistical significance for offense was found at the .001 level. Chart 2 illustrates the returns for violations by the months to return for offense type.

Race

The findings in Chart 3 illustrate that blacks return at a much higher rate than whites and races included in the 'other' category. Nearly 25 percent of all blacks released to CCI returned within two years as opposed to whites and others whose return rate was approximately 14 percent. Analysis of the data indicates there is statistical significance at the .001 level.

Although the findings revealed that blacks return at higher proportions, blacks do not return any quicker than other races. Regardless of race, 95 percent returned within the first year.

Age

Community custody offenders who are 30 years or older, return more frequently (17 percent) than offenders under 30 years of age (15 percent). The results are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Sex

Analysis of the data indicates that males return at a slightly lower rate of 16 percent than females whose return rate is 18 percent. However, statistical significance between the sexes was not found.

Chart 2

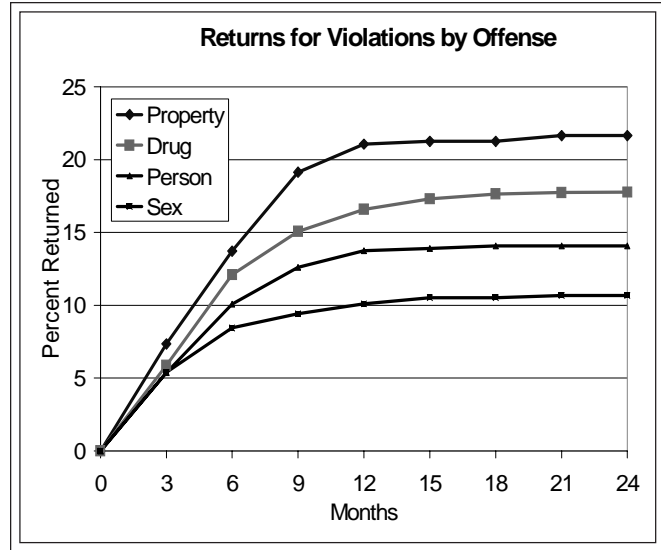


Chart 3

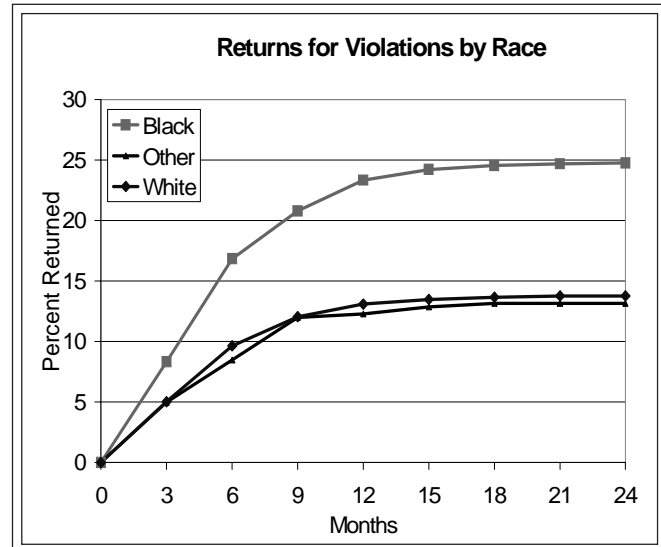


Chart 4

